interval of twenty years, the Russian Government, under Tsar Nicholas I, resumed the policy of settling Jews on the land, and on his initiative, between 1835 and 1850, twenty-eight new Jewish colonies were founded in Southern Russia. A special inducement was offered in that the colonists were freed from military service, which at that time extended over twenty-five years. Groups of Jews from Lithuania and Poland migrated to Southern Russia to take up agriculture. By 1845, 1661 families, with a total of 12,779 persons, were settled in those colonies.

Also in other parts of the Pale of Settlement, in Lithuania, Poland, the Northern Ukraine, and Bessarabia, the Jews made use of the right to buy land and to engage in agriculture on scattered farms or in special Jewish settlements. It is stated that in Poland, in 1859, the number of Jews engaged in agriculture was, including dependents, 27,971.

The attitude of the Russian Government continued favourable to Jewish agricultural colonization till the 'sixties, when the policy was reversed. In 1866 the settlement of Jews in agricultural colonies was stopped by an ukase; in 1872, 30,000 out of the 70,000 hectares[1] of State lands assigned to them in Lithuania and the Ukraine were

taken away on the pretext that the land was not properly cultivated; and in 1882 a stop was put to all further extension of Jewish colonization by the Government forbidding Jews to lease or buy land.

According to the Russian census of 1897, 40,611 Jews were engaged in agriculture, making 2-67 per cent of the 1,530,307 Jews in gainful occupations. Including dependents, the number of Jews who made their living from agriculture amounted to 192,721, *i.e.* 3*81 per cent of the Jewish population.

In 1897 an inquiry by the Jewish Colonization Association

[1] One hectare = 2J acres.